

Patent Claims

1. A module (6) for integration in a home network (1) with individual devices which are connected to one another and communicate among one another via one or more protocols defined for the home network (1), the home network (1) having at least one connecting device (5) which allows communication with an external network (10), the module (6) being able to receive data and/or metadata describing the content of the data available at providers (11, 12) in the external network (10) and to make them available to the devices (2, 3, 4) of the home network (1), characterized in that the module (6) has one or more search units (7) for searching for the availability of specific data at the providers (11, 12) in the external network (10).

2. The module (6) as claimed in claim 1, wherein it has a format converter (8), which converts the data of the external network (10) into a format which corresponds to one of the formats which are defined for the exchange of data in the home network (1) and are readable for the devices (2, 3, 4) in the home network (1).

3. The module (6) as claimed in claim 2, wherein the format converter (8) converts data in a format which corresponds to one of the formats which are defined for the exchange of data in the home network (1) and are readable for the devices (2, 3, 4) in the home network (1) into a format used in the external network (10).

4. The module (6) as claimed in one of claims 1-3, wherein the search unit (7) and/or the format converter (8) can be updated.

5. The module (6) as claimed in one of the preceding claims, wherein the module (6) communicates with the

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other devices (2, 3, 4) of the home network (1) by means of one of the protocols defined for the home network (1).

6. The module (6) as claimed in one of the preceding claims, wherein it converts control data from a protocol defined for the home network (1) into a protocol used by the external network (10) or by a provider (11, 12) of data.

7. The module (6) as claimed in one of the preceding claims, wherein it has a memory (9), which stores the received data and/or the data converted into the format defined for the home network (1).

8. The module (6) as claimed in one of the preceding claims, wherein the external network (10) is the Internet.

9. The module (6) as claimed in one of the preceding claims, wherein the data from the external network (10) are text, audio and/or video data.

10. The module (6) as claimed in one of the preceding claims, wherein it communicates with the devices (2, 3, 4) of the home network (1) via a data bus.

11. The module (6) as claimed in one of the preceding claims, wherein it is integrated into the connecting device (5).

12. The module (6) as claimed in one of the preceding claims, wherein it is able to receive and process inquiries from the external network (10) and send data from the home network (1) into the external network (10).